

previous order, following the remarks of Senator MERKLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

### CLIMATE DISRUPTION

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, climate disruption is the seminal challenge of our generation. It affects everything from our farming to our fishing to our forestry. We see the impact in disappearing glaciers, shrinking ice sheets, melting permafrost, dying coral reefs, more powerful storms, and migrating animals and insects.

In response, communities across the globe are transforming their energy economies. They are increasing the energy efficiency of their buildings and their vehicles and their appliances, and they are replacing carbon-polluting fossil fuel energy with clean, renewable energy.

How much do you know about the changes underway? Let's find out.

Welcome to episode No. 2 of the Senate Climate Disruption Quiz.

First question: Which car company announced just last week that all of its new models will have an electric motor starting in 2019? Was it Toyota, which has the Prius currently, the Prius plug-in? Was it Volvo, known for its safety, or Honda, which advocates its fuel efficiency, or Ford, which has the all-electric Focus?

The answer is B: Volvo. On July 5, Volvo announced that beginning in 2019, every new model in its fleet will have some form of electric propulsion. These cars will include so-called "mild" hybrids featuring regenerative braking like the Prius, plug-in hybrids like the Volt, and fully electric cars like the Tesla. Volvo intends to do all of these forms.

Now with electric cars in mind, let's move on to question No. 2: Which European country plans to ban the sale of new diesel and gas vehicles by the year 2040? Is it France or Spain or the United Kingdom or Switzerland? The answer is France.

Last week, on July 6, France's Environment Minister Nicolas Hulot announced a new environmental plan for his country to reflect France's commitment to the Paris climate agreement. Minister Hulot not only said that France will ban the sale of new diesel and gas cars starting in 2040, but will seek to shut down all of its coal-powered electric plants over the next 5 years—by the year 2022—and to pursue a "carbon-neutral" economy by the year 2050. That is the same as a net zero production of carbon dioxide.

Let's turn to a different part of the world. Let's go to the Southern Hemi-

sphere. A crack in the Antarctic ice shelf will soon create an iceberg of what size? Will it be the size of Oregon, my home State, which is roughly 100,000 square miles; or the size of the Superdome in New Orleans, about 6 acres; or how about the size of Manhattan, 23 square miles; or Delaware, which is much larger, at about 2,000 square miles? The answer is D, Delaware.

The crack in this ice shelf will create an iceberg about the size of Delaware.

This is Antarctica's fourth largest ice shelf. The crack is now 120 miles long, and in some spots now it is 2 miles wide, and there are just 3 miles left in which it is attached to the ice shelf. So given the stresses that are being applied to that vast sheet of ice, the break is expected to happen in the next couple of weeks. When that happens, we will have an iceberg larger than 2,000 square miles—about the size of Delaware—and this will be such a large iceberg that it will contain roughly 1 trillion tons of ice.

Question No. 4: Global production of what fossil fuel fell by 6.2 percent in 2016? Was it coal or was it oil or was it natural gas?

The answer is A: coal. According to British Petroleum's annual report, global coal production fell by over 6 percent last year—the largest decline since they started keeping statistics in 1950. What is driving the decline? It is shrinking coal production in both the United States and in China.

What is happening in the other two sectors—oil and gas? There was a slight increase in the production of oil last year, and the production of natural gas was basically flat.

Now, compare these to renewable energy, which grew very quickly last year. Global wind energy grew by more than 15 percent in a single year, but that is a small amount compared to global solar energy, which grew by almost 30 percent—in a single year, almost a one-third increase in global production. And renewable energy is now taking up a larger share of the primary energy production worldwide.

Finally question No. 5: How many U.S. cities have joined the "We Are Still In" coalition? That is the coalition that was formed after President Trump announced he was going to withdraw the United States from the Paris accord. Is it 15 cities, 125 cities, 500 cities, or just 100 cities?

The correct answer is B, and of course the number is increasing even as we speak. President Trump announced on June 1 that he would pull the United States out of the Paris accord and, in just that short period since—a little over 5 weeks—125 cities, 9 States, 900 businesses and investors,

and 183 colleges and universities have declared that they are committed to the vision of the Paris Agreement and to taking steps to be part of obtaining and securing that vision. Together, this coalition represents 120 million Americans and a \$6.2 trillion share of the U.S. economy.

It includes cities from the West, like Los Angeles, and the East, such as Baltimore. It includes cities in red States, like Houston, TX, and Tucson, AZ. It includes cities from the Southwest and Southeast, like Santa Fe, NM, from the Southwest, and Charleston, SC, in the Southeast.

These are just a few of the 125 cities—cities led by Democrats and Republicans—because the fact is, the threat of climate disruption to our planet is not a partisan issue. It is not a red issue or a blue issue; it is an issue that impacts everyone on this globe, regardless of political ideology.

So there you have it, folks. Episode No. 2 of the Senate Climate Disruption Quiz—questions ripped right from the headlines. How did you score?

Every week we have surprising new facts—new facts on the ground about the changes in the environment and new facts about the response of communities across the globe.

There is no question that we are racing the clock to take this on as human civilization, and there is no time to spare. So stay engaged in the fight.

In the near future, I will bring you Episode No. 3 of the Senate Climate Disruption Quiz to present some of the new issues that will unfold in the coming days. If you are following this quiz at home and have a good idea for a climate disruption question, please tweet it to me at @SenJeffMerkley on Twitter, using the hash tag ClimateQ4Jeff.

Let's fight together and save our beautiful blue-green planet.

I yield the floor.

### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 2:15 P.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 2:15 p.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:39 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 11, 2017, at 2:15 p.m.

### CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate July 10, 2017:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NEOMI RAO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.